(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Awareness compaigns have been launched with success, to make the people stop feeding the birds with human food. Efforts have also been stepped up to clean the environment of the lake in coordination with the district agencies.

Irrigation projects in Game Sanctuaries

2012. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allow different State Governments to build irrigation projects and flood the existing game sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the name of sanctuaries whether Government have allowed forest and environmental approval which will involve massive flooding of game sanctuaries;

(c) what are the reasons for this benign attitude on the part of Government; and

(d) whether Government have suggested amendments to the existing Wildlife Protection Act to allow flooding of game sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no general approval allowing the State Governments to construct irrigation projects in Protected Areas. The project proposals submitted by the State Governments involving Protected Areas are placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for consideration and recommendations before seeking permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court and clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act. Since April, 2005, no Forest Clearance to any irrigation project involving Sanctuary areas has been given. Environmental Clearance has been given only in one case *viz.* Indira Sagar Irrigation Project (Polavaram) in Andhra Pradesh which includes part of Wildlife Sanctuary. During the same period the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has recommended four irrigation proposals in (i) Radhanagari Sanctuary, Maharashtra (ii) Maldhok Bird Sanctuary, Maharashtra (iii) Mayureshwar Sanctuary, Maharashtra and (iv) Dalma Sanctuary, Jharkhand.

(c) There is no question of benign attitude of the Government. All the proposals involving diversion of forest land from Protected Areas are recommended or rejected on merit after strict scrutiny by the Ministry and the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.

(d) No, Sir.

Ozone depletion

2013. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that holes of the ozone layer in the atmosphere are growing larger and larger;

(b) how far such holes have increased in temperature (hot) of the earth during the last 5 years;

(c) how far this hot temperature had its adverse effect on earth most particularly on Indian soil; and

(d) the steps expected to be taken by Government to protect the Indian coast in case polar snow (North and South Poles) are melted and increase the sea level of the seas and oceans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the annual spring phenomenon of Stratospheric Ozone depletion over the poles and particularly over Antarctica during the period September-November—referred to as the Ozone hole, has steadily intensified in terms of quantum of depletion during the entire decade of 1990s. Thereafter, in the recent years of the present century the progressive deterioration has been arrested. IMD observations at Maitri in Eastern Antarctica during the period 1999-2005 also conform to this trend.

(b) and (c) The Ozone hole is not known to affect the earth's surface temperature.

(d) The Government is aware of the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2001) regarding implications of global projections of increase in the sea level rise. The steps taken to protect the Indian Coast include assessment of vulnerability and adoptation of Indian coast.